



**FASHION INNOVATION CENTER
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

Release Date: June 16, 2022

The following is a list of responses to questions submitted by prospective respondents to NYSTAR RFA Fashion Innovation Center. A copy of the RFA is available at:

<https://esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/requests-proposals/rfa-fashion-innovation-center>

No.	Question	Answer
1	Will there be an extension to this RFA's deadline?	Yes, we are extending the application deadline to August 1.
2	Are there tie-ins between the Fashion Innovation Center and NYCEDC's Materials Innovation Hub?	At this juncture, there is no official partnership and/or business relationship between the Fashion Innovation Center and New York City's Materials Innovation Hub. We welcome applicants to bring together resources from diverse sectors/programs across the State and to leverage any synergies.
3	Is it a requirement to request funds from both of the categories of funding – capital and operating/grants – or can an applicant respond only to operating or only to capital?	Applicants can request less than \$10M total. Applicants can request up to \$5M for capital expenses and up to \$5M for operating expenses.

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4	What roles do you expect the new NY Textile Act-established Workgroup to play in planning and implementing the Fashion Innovation Center?	At this juncture, there are no definitive plans for the NY Textile-Act established Workgroup to plan or implement the Fashion Innovation Center.
5	Will there be any opportunity for interested parties to work with ESD to develop metrics for the Fashion Innovation Center?	Members of the public are welcome to email fashion@esd.ny.gov and propose potential metrics.
6	Will you provide a list of parties that are developing applications?	At this juncture, we will not provide a list of potential applicants. We encourage potential applicants to connect with higher education institutions, membership organizations, local government entities, farmers, and the Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation (“NYSTAR”) assets.
7	How was the opportunity promoted?	The RFA was publicly posted on ESD’s website, and each ESD Regional Office further promoted the RFA through outreach to stakeholders in the region.

No.	Question	Answer
8	What is driving the tight deadline to submit?	Response deadlines are set based on various logistical factors, including target timelines for deliverables.
9	Was there a webinar for interested participants? Is the transcript available?	A webinar has not been held for this RFA. We have extended the deadline to August 10 and will have a webinar in mid-July.
10	Is there a FAQ document?	There is no current FAQ, but one will be developed based on questions received at the mid-July webinar.
11	Is ESD looking for a consortium to respond or an accelerator operator (one interested partner to a consortium)?	ESD is looking for a consortium to respond. That consortium should include one strong accelerator operator.
12	Is there potential for the winning respondent to identify additional partners after proposal submission or is it required that all parties be identified in advance?	The Fashion Innovation Center consortium can include additional partners not included in the original application.

No.	Question	Answer
13	What does a viable agricultural partnership look like? Will ESD support with making vital connections in addition to the ones that applicants have?	ESD will support the Fashion Innovation Center by, among other things, endeavoring to make appropriate connections to industry partners after an award has been made.